

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JAMES A. HARRIS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, the Reverend James A. Harris, on his 80th birthday, which he will celebrate on August 25, 2006.

Reverend Harris has led a life of distinction and accomplishment. After growing up in Des Moines, Iowa, he served as a combat pilot with the famed Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. He went on to receive Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees at Drake University and later earned post-graduate degrees at Drake Divinity College, Oklahoma A&M University, and American University.

Reverend Harris's numerous accomplishments and contributions to our community include his service as the first African American male President of the National Education Association (1974–75) and as a principal in the D.C. Public School system from 1975–88. He is a lifetime educator and scholar and a lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. His career as a founder and pastor of Faith Community Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland has enabled him to make a difference in countless lives. Named one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans" by Ebony Magazine in 1975, Reverend Harris has been known for his humility and service to Montgomery County, Maryland for more than 25 years. His leadership has had a tremendous impact on countless individuals throughout our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to thank Reverend Harris for his many years of service to our community and to our nation. I extend my heartiest congratulations to him on the occasion of his 80th birthday, and I hope his celebrations this year and in the years to come are filled with the love and happiness of his family and friends.

INTRODUCTION OF SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION LEGISLATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Senator JACK REED (D-RI) in the Senate, introduce legislation that will establish a Commission on the Survey of Income and Program Participation. The President has proposed eliminating the SIPP in his FY 2007 Budget, with a redesigned survey to take its place in 2009. This is careless, as it takes away one of the most valuable sources of data on the economic well-being of American families. The SIPP Commission represents a fair process for changing or eliminating the survey if the need arises. Should someone wish to change the SIPP, a detailed proposal outlining the change, its justification, and the timetable on which it should take place, will be submitted to the SIPP Commission for evaluation. Members of the Commission would include the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, one

appointed member from Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Social Security Administration, the Bureau of the Census, and two members from the National Academy of Sciences.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THE STAFF OF THE JAMES HALEY VA MEDICAL CENTER'S POLYTRAUMA REHABILITATION CENTER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, the James Haley VA Medical Center, VAMC, in Tampa, FL, is one of the busiest veterans' medical facilities in the country and provides care to approximately 142,000 veterans in Central Florida. The Tampa VAMC is also home to one of four designated polytrauma rehabilitation centers in the country where the most severely injured service members are treated.

Military service personnel wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan may have serious traumatic brain injuries alone or in combination with amputation, visual impairments, orthopedic injuries, hearing disorders and mental health concerns. The unique nature of these severe multiple injuries has created the need for a blast injury program that can address the medical, psychological, rehabilitation, and prosthetic needs of these individuals.

The Tampa VAMC has been recognized as a Center of Excellence in Rehabilitation and Spinal Cord Medicine. At the Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center, a team of as many as 10 specialists assess the needs of the catastrophically injured and their families, to determine a comprehensive treatment plan which will help each person reach the highest level of physical, emotional, and social independence in the home, workplace and community. More than 2,500 outpatients and 140 inpatients have been treated at the Tampa Polytrauma Center since the program began.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have spent a great deal of time at the James Haley VAMC, which serves many of the veterans who reside in my congressional district. Over the years, I have been impressed by the dedication of the men and women who work at the medical center, providing quality care and services to our Nation's veterans. Dr. Steven Scott, the chief of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service, and his polytrauma team should certainly be counted among the dedicated staff of the VAMC.

The Veterans' Affairs Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, which I chair, has visited the Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center. We had an opportunity to spend time with some of our wounded Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom service members being treated at the Polytrauma Center. We also heard from their family members who repeatedly praised the polytrauma staff for the compassionate and professional care their loved ones were receiving.

One of the things that stood out when we visited the Tampa Polytrauma Rehabilitation

Center was the positive outlook of the patients and their families—despite everything they had already been through and the daunting road of rehabilitation that still lay ahead of them. In part, I think they were able to maintain this positive attitude because of the tremendous dedication and caring work of the Polytrauma Center staff.

Dr. Scott and his staff have also been vocal advocates for their patients, raising issues to my subcommittee's attention which have improved the quality of care and services provided to polytrauma patients.

On August 5, 2006, Dr. Scott and his staff are being recognized for their service to our Nation's wounded service members and veterans. I want to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to each of them and commend them for the tremendous service they provide to our wounded military personnel and veterans.

Members of the James Haley polytrauma team: Forest Farley, Jr., hospital director; Dr. Steven Scott, D.O., chief, Polytrauma Center; Dr. John Merritt, M.D., chief, Spinal Cord Injury; Dr. Joel Scholten, M.D.; Dr. Cecille Pope, M.D.; Dr. Gail Latlief, D.O.; Dr. Faiza Humayun, M.D.; Dr. Rebecca Kayo, Ph.D.; MAJ Steve Moten, U.S. Army, DoD Liaison; SGM Vincent Conti, U.S. Army, DoD Liaison; Carolyn Clark, public affairs officer; Barbara Darkangelo, P.T.; Judith Pink-Goldin, O.T.; Marti Veneman, R.N. and nurse manager; Nancy Kronawetter, R.N.; Diana Cronin, R.N.; Karen Meigs, R.N.; Lea Rashka, R.N.; Joann Estep, L.P.N.; Barbara Collas, L.P.N.; Patrice Thompson, L.P.N.; Annies Joy, L.P.N.; Paula O'Keefe, R.N.; Bernice Willis, R.N.; Chaplain David LeFavor; Ivan Colon, R.N.; Frank Bormet, R.N.; Debra Banks, R.N.; Elizabeth Butron, R.N.; Pamela Keckler, L.P.N.; Ryan Baker, L.P.N.; Earl Gray, N.A.; Tracey Vaness, V.R.T.; James MacAulay, V.R.T.; Laura Manore, A.A.; Deborah Studer, S.W.; Margaret Veneman, N.M.; Douglas Gephart, P.M.R. coord.; Leslie Rothman, recreational therapy; Linda Picon, S.L.P.; Laurel Adams, O.T.; Juan Jose Villeda, P.T.; Steve Klemz, S.W.; Felicia Santos, S.W.; Jeanetta Sheppard, S.W.; Diana Phillpotts, S.W.; June Demaree, S.W.; Abby Wolf, recreational therapy; Lauren Doloresco, assistant chief, nursing; Sandra Janzen, ACOS nursing service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PREPAREDNESS FIRST ACT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Ms. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, America needs to be prepared. Whether for a commuter train attack, as we saw recently in India, or a hurricane, like we are still rebuilding from in New Orleans, it is clear America must get serious about all-hazards preparedness, that is preparing for all emergencies—be they natural or man-made.

Yesterday I introduced the Preparedness First Act to authorize critical grant programs that our State and local governments already depend on for all-hazards emergency preparation.

The premise of H.R. 5910 is to ensure that States and localities will have a basic level of